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FOODSTUFFS ROUND THE WORLD.

Thirty thousand bunches of bananas a week from New Nicaragua planters' Association. Procession of American cattle across the Rio Grande. France reduces duty on Italian fish. Record sardine catch in Norway, etc.

A cooperative association of independent banana planters on the Atlantic Coast of Nicaragua has just been formed in Bluefields, according to a dispatch received by the Department of Commerce from Consul William W. Heard, Bluefield. The association comprises seven groups of planters totaling 500 persons controlling 10,000 acres and producing 30,000 stems of bananas every eight days. Negotiations are now under way for the providing of tugs and barges as well as a weekly steamer service to carry the fruit to New Orleans. It is expected that the first shipments of the newly-created organization will commence around the first of February.

Many American beeves crossing the Rio Grande.

No slowing up of the heavy movement of cattle from American points into Mexico has taken place, the unprecedented purchases of American cattle having entirely supplanted the usual movement of cattle from Mexico into this country. According to Consul Harry L. Walsh, Nuevo Laredo, in a report to the Department of Commerce a total of more than 12,000 head have crossed at that point in the five-month period from July 1 to November 30. Only a few milch animals have figured in the American shipments, and only a few animals for breeding purposes--the balance was for slaughter. This factor would indicate that the movement is destined to continue well into the present year, as it intimates a temporary exhaustion or impending exhaustion at the usual beef supply points in Mexico. This point is borne out by the consignment of this American stock to the chief consuming centers of Mexico--Mexico City, Monterey, and Tampico.

Easier to sell Italian canned fish in France.

Italian fish canners are elated at the action taken by France in reducing the tariff on preserved fish from Italy; the prospective aid to the Adriatic fish and canning industry being evident. According to Vice Consul Deming, Venice, in a report to the Department of Commerce, Italian producers have heretofore been practically barred from the French market by a protective tariff favoring fisheries at Nantes and along the Brittany and Normandy coast.

Ten million kilograms of mackerel.

Norwegian sardine factories are well supplied with raw material, and, with few exceptions, all expect to continue in full operation throughout December, says Consul Ifft, Bergen, Norway, in a report just received by the Department of Commerce. The bristling and young herring, which are put up as Norwegian sardines, came late to the west coast this season, but when they did come, came abundantly. The season has been the best ever known in Norwegian waters.

Mackerel fishing has made a record--a record that is fifty per cent better than any previous one. Official reports show a catch of 9,500,000 kilograms for the season, and returns from a few districts not yet reporting will probably bring the total up to about 10,000,000.

JAN 10 1923

Foodstuffs round the world--3.

of beets and 5 tons of sugar as against 20 tons of beets and 3 tons of sugar in former Russian Poland," says Consul Keena. "The area planted to beets increased from 82,187 hectares in 1921 to 107,953 hectares in 1922. Plantings were increased notably in former Russian and Austrian territories but were still but half the pre-war areas. In 1921-22, 1,029,223 tons of beets were worked to produce 154,676 tons of sugar (in terms of pure white), 34,610 tons of molasses, and 10,302 tons of Steffen's pulp. The 1922-23 crop will be much larger, a conservative estimate being 260,000 tons. But the 1921-22 domestic consumption of 135,000 tons was much below normal and the exportable surplus this year is not expected to exceed 100,000 tons.

Better use the canned variety.

Fresh milk for Antofagasta, Chile, is a real problem, but it is being solved. The district is entirely desert, and nothing grows without irrigation. All water used is piped from the mountains, says Consul McMillen, Antofagasta, in a report to the Department of Commerce, and forage for dairy cows has to be imported. A small dairy with 42 holsteins imported from the State of New York is the sole source of milk, and the output of 39,682 pounds does not go far in supplying the city's demand. In the near future, however, the dairy is to ^{be} increased by 200 cows, when it is hoped that butter and cream can be furnished the city.

Smyrna fruits available for export.

The following information has been received by cable by the Department of Commerce from Vice Consul Treat as to the probable amount of raisins, currants, and figs in Smyrna district available for export. Compared with the 1921 season, the decrease this year in shipments to the United States is approximately 43 per cent and in total exports 54 per cent. During this season, shipments to the United States amounted to approximately 5,900 tons, compared with the total export of 6,500 tons.